

rationalise railway freight structure for making domestic coal competitive at long haul distances from pit head. No positive response has yet been received from Ministry of Railways.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Railways have intimated that the freight structure on coal is telescopic in nature under which rate per kilometre decreases in distance. Ministry of Railways do not have any proposal for introduction of two-tier freight classification for transportation of coal.

Proposal to Solve Kashmir Problems

1838. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have a proposal to resolve Kashmir problems;
- (b) if so, the fresh efforts made in that regard; and
- (c) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) It is the Government's endeavour to bring back peace and normalcy in the State of J&K. Accordingly, the three prongs of our strategy being implemented jointly with the State Govt, are (i) proactively tackling cross border terrorism with the help of the security forces whose tactics and deployment are kept dynamic to meet the changing ground realities, (ii) taking steps to facilitate accelerated economic development, and (iii) willingness to talk with all such people or groups of J& K who eschew the path of violence with a view redressing the genuine grievances of the people of J&K.

(b) and (c) Recent refinements in the strategy include *inter-alia* (i) removing the restraint of non initiation of combat operations against the terrorists in J&K, which had been placed earlier on the security forces, who shall now taken such action against the terrorists as they judge best while, in the process, continuing to exercise maximum possible are that no undue harassment is caused to the civilian population of J&K, (ii) reiterating the

invitation to all sections in J&K to join in the process of dialogue initiated by the Prime Minister through Shri K.C. Pant.

The security forces have met with greater successes in their operations during June and July this year.

Job cuts in Subsidiaries of CIL

1839. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Expenditure Reforms Commission has recommended job cuts in subsidiaries of Coal India Limited;
- (b) if so, the facts and details thereof;
- (c) whether the Officers of the Coal Controller throughout the country have also been wound up;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) whether the decision of the Government to have cuts in subsidiaries of Coal India Limited will have any adverse impact on the employees and workers;-if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) The Expenditure Reforms Commission (ERC) in para 30 of its report, has made the following observations on manpower rationalization in Coal India Limited:—

"It is estimated that nearly one fifth of the total manpower of 5,62,071 is surplus compared to the requirement in CIL collieries. A recent study has revealed that in ECL, which has the highest level of losses in this group, as many as 64,000 out of a total work force of 1,33,383 are deployed in 64 loss making collieries. The incidence of wage cost in these 64 mines is 112% of the sale price of coal. CIL's current year's budget visualized coverage of 11000 surplus personnel under the Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) at a total cost of Rs. 242 crores. If all the seven subsidiaries are to become competitive and hold their place in the emerging scenario, then highest priority needs to be given to a manpower rationalization scheme that will cover more than one lakh surplus work force, mostly in ECL, BCCL and CCL, under the Voluntary Retirement Scheme within the next two year period. The funds required for the VRS could be met out of the surpluses of the profit making subsidiaries